AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter aims to keep its readers advised on important matters affecting labor, occurring in the judicial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

MEXICAN WAR SPIRIT OPPOSED BY WORKERS

New York, July 19.—Anti-Mexican jingoes in every country were denounced at the second annual convention of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, which includes the trade union movements of the North American continent.

The convention unanimously passed this resolution, introduced by President Morones of the Mexican Federation of Labor:

"Whereas, The campaign that for some time has been carried on by certain interests to provoke a bloody conflict between the United States and Mexico has reached alarming proportions;

"Resolved, That this congress is against such campaign being continued, and that the officers of the Pan-American Federation of Labor be instructed to make their best efforts and use all the powers at their command to have the differences between the United States and Mexico settled in a peaceful way, as the working people in Mexico will co-operate to that end."

President Gompers presided at the session of the convention, and was unanimously re-elected president.

In a newspaper interview, prior to his departure for Amsterdam to attend a meeting of international trade unionists, he said:

"To my mind it would be the gravest wrong which could be inflicted on the people of the United States or on any of as the people of Mexico, if the jingo spirit which is now in the course of manufacture would drive us into anything like armed conflict with Mexico.

"The president and his associates have negotiated a treaty of peace, and it is established the covenant of the league of nations, one of whose high-est purposes is settlement by the international disputes by peaceful means and for the prevention of war, it cannot consistently advocate such high principles in our dealings with one European nation as provided in the covenant and then rush into armed conflict with Mexico."

DEMAND MOONEY TRIAL.

Cincinnati, July 19.—In reviewing action by the recent A. F. of L. convention on the case of Warren Stone, chief of the International Molders' Union, it says:

"There was a practically unanimous belief that Brother Mooney (who is a member of the Iron Molders' union) has been convicted under circumstances which will go down in history as the most famous of those where a sentence had been imposed as a result of collusion, corrupt practices by the prosecution and perjured testimony.

"There was a determination in the delegates' minds that Brother Mooney was not only entitled to a new trial, but that a new trial must be secured for him, and that if the state of California or Labor was obliged to do everything in its power not only to secure a new trial, but the presentation of the evidences of corruption, collusion and perjury on the part of the prosecution and its witnesses, before an unbiased jury, so that it will be seen were guilty of these acts that are charged against the prosecuting officials and these officials could be tried, and if found guilty punished adequately for their crimes against justice."

TAKING ANOTHER GUESS.

Toledo, Ohio, July 19.—Business men in this city are taking another guess at their attitude toward the lockout of 16,000 Overland automobile employes who refused to work more than eight day. When the lockout started the business men joined in the blue and cry against these unionists, but the lockout has been on for almost three weeks and their deposits are shrinking and less commodities are being sold. Mr. Business Man is now beginning to inquire into "the facts of the case."

The strike has created an unusual condition—a federal judge issuing an injunction in which picketing is "legalized" and the company ordered to operate its plant. The agent—Federal Judge Killits—has appointed a representative to see that his order is observed. The court controls now the control of the plant, which is filled with scabs, boys and strikebreakers. Toledo trade unionists are assessing themselves 50 cents a week to help the locked out, 1,000 of whom are women.

STRIKERS ENJOINED.

Los Angeles, Cal., July 19.—Judge Waller has issued a temporary injunction against striking metal workers in the city, which forbids strikers ship Building and Dry Dock company to stripped of its membership legal verbiage, says the Los Angeles Citizen, the order prevents a union man from speaking a word to his fellow strikebreaker who may go to work in the ship yard.

The injunction does not interfere with agents of the company, who have, or are visiting homes of the strikers in a vain attempt to have them return to work.

Judge Waller has also issued a temporary injunction restraining striking telephone girls employed by the Southern California Telephone company.

AFTER 44-HOUR WEEK.

Indianapolis, July 19.—The current issue of the Typographical Journal reports that the 44-hour week in all departments of book and newspaper offices has been approved by the referendum by a vote of 24,885 for to 21,949 against. The approval of the International Typographical union means that "no more fights or agreement with employers' organizations to provide nationally" for the 48-hour week.

New York elected the plan by a vote of 3,000 to 1,000, and Boston by a vote of 2,307 to 322. Both of these typographical unions are preparing for the earlier enforcement of the shorter work week.

ARRANGE 8-HOUR DAY.

Lillie, France, July 19.—Mine workers in this region arranged decisions of the eight-hour day, much to the chagrin of operators here. The hours of the work day between 7:30 to 8 a. m. and from 5 to 5:30 p. m. with half an hour for lunch and threatened to strike if they didn't have their way. The mine owners yielded.

FAVOR LABOR PARTY.

Denver, July 19.—A resolution to co-operate with the three other railroad brotherhoods for a farmer-labor political party was adopted by the annual convention of the several grievances of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, Regular action was taken by the delegates in favor of the Order of Railway Conductors.

BLIND SHIP OWNERS CAUSE BIG WALK OUT

New York, July 19.—Ship owners are refusing to carry out agreements with officials to adjust grievances or deep water workers and now the inevitable strike extends down the Atlantic coast with practically all ships tied up. The United States shipping board, which is the largest ship operator, is also involved.

The strike affects sailors, firemen, oilers and water tenders and marine cooks and stewards. Representatives of these employes have endeavored to settle the matter, but the Atlantic Steamship company to give preference in employment to American citizens first and, then to organized labor union men. Other demands include an eight-hour day and a 20 per cent wage increase. The United States shipping board has offered to raise wages $10 a month with an eight-hour day in port, but this has been rejected with the statement that the Atlantic company has offered to give American citizens the preference, but rejected the second preference—trade unionists. The strikers expose this tricky offer by showing that the ship companies who are leading the fight against them are employing men who cannot speak English and the Americans will not, therefore, be hired. The strikers declare that these ship owners are not employing Americans and have not even registered intending ones.

The eight-hour system demanded by the strikers is in force on all ships when on duty while at sea and eight hours off duty except in bad weather or other emergencies.

The strike includes several lines of shipping, including many ships sent to unionize them. These workers are employed by the unionists and for the first time have complete control of action among seamen and other ship operators along the Atlantic coast.

Philadelphia, July 19.—A local paper says ship owners at this port will ask the government to use the naval force to break the strike of seamen. Trade unionists, who reviles their prediction made when they were attempting to avoid a strike—that the government would strike and would ask the government to assist in destroying the unions.

The newspaper prints this untruth on the workers, which is usual in strike times:

"That (the strikers) demand a 'closed shop' policy and an agreement that the American merchant marine be controlled entirely by union rules."

TRY TO SHIFT BLAME.

Boston, July 19.—Employers have failed to shift the blame for high prices of cigars on their striking cigar makers, who show that their request for an increased wage will amount to less than 1 cent for each cigar. They say that the employers claim that increased cigars would be increased to 15 cents is ridiculous, since the 5-cent cigar increased cost on a 5-cent cigar would be less than one-fifth of 1 cent.

The 1917 wage scale of the "cigar makers received $16 a thousand for 10-cent cigars; $12 a thousand for 5-cent cigars. The manufacturers' wholesale price was $60 a thousand. Cigar makers received $19.50 a thousand for making 10-cent cigars. The manufacturers' wholesale price is $80 a thousand, an increase of $20 a thousand would add.

"We are receiving $12.65 a thousand for the cigars we make, an increase of $2.1, a thousand. The manufacturers' wholesale price is $83 a thousand, an increase of $23 a thousand.

"Then we ask, who is responsible for the high cost of cigars?"

BURLESON IS BLAMED.

New York, July 19.—The New York World continues its attack on Postmaster General Burleson and in a leading article this week on the "incompetence of Burleson," says:

"The handling of the telegraph and telephone wires and ocean cables dealt a death blow to the campaign for government ownership. Poorer service, higher rates and the sinister suggestion that with at least one exception, the fact, that he allowed himself to be used by one group of cynical manipulators to shuffle the cards in the disadvantage of a business rival, were the result of his accommodation to director of electrical communication.

The World prints a Washington dispatch that the postmaster general had no intention of resigning and he has been advised by his friends in congress to "stick to his job and let his critics rave."

TRIAL HAS BAD ODOR.

Washington, July 19.—In discussing the Manning trial, the Washington Herald says "the entire affair smacks of rottenness."

"From the witnesses for the commonwealth to the prosecuting attorney up through officialdom, even with the case there is an air of corruption which has paralyzed the nerves of the American courts and American justice.

"Federal investigators of the case have recommended a new trial for Manning. The state supreme court of California apparently ignores justice in refusing a retrial, because the district Mooney might be set free and the foul travesty on justice would be exposed."

FLINTS WANT MORE.

Bellaire, Ohio, July 19.—At the annual convention of the Ohio Valley Flint Glass Workers' union it was voted to ask for a 25 per cent increase for employes in the press ware department, which is the largest unit of this organization. The plan is to have contractural relations with employers and wage scales fixed by conferences. These workers are practically 100 per cent organized.

TEACHERS' PAY RAISED.

Chicago, July 19.—A board of education committee has voted that teachers be paid a $1,000 minimum wage. This will advance all principals from $200 to $1,000 a year. If the board approves the recommendation the teachers will be paid the new scale dating back from the first of the year.

PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

Edmonton, Alberta, July 19.—Organized plumbers and steam fitters have been granted an increase in wages of $1 per day, effective August 1, until September 1, when rates will be advanced another 50 cents per day until April 1, 1920, when the agreement ends.

AMERICA WOULD GAIN BY STOPPING ALIENS

Baltimore, July 19.—The suspension of immigration to the United States for a period of 15 to 20 years is favored by William B. Colver, federal trade commissioner, who is quoted in a local newspaper. The official refers to the information contained in the draft of 9,000,000 men, which shows, he declares "that an unusually large percentage of this country's manhood had not digested into American citizenship," and says: "Regardless of color, race or our language, nor write it, and that many of them have not the slightest idea of the purposes and processes of the institutions upon which our democracy rests.

"For years immigration has been stimulated to serve the purpose of industries which felt that they needed and must have a constant supply of rough, cheap labor. No heed was given to the effect upon the public at large and upon the body or the citizenship of such stimulated immigration.

"If immigration were absolutely suspended for 15 or 20 years there would, meanwhile, be established citizenship and benefit—I believe the benefit would vastly overweigh the hardship.

"The least regarded of our people—the unskilled laborers—suffer because his value would increase. His life, his health and his happiness would immediately become the concern of the enlightened selfishness of the employing class. Every effort would be made to increase his efficiency, and, through the elimination of involuntary labor, his wages would be greatly increased. His employment and his security would be brought home to it that element which is a fundamental factor in successful business enterprise, stability.

"If all the workers of the country could enjoy steadily the wages which no shortage of labor would result from the shutting off of immigration."

ORGANIC CHANGES URGED.

Chicago, July 19.—The executive boards of the Illinois state federation of labor, Chicago federation of labor and the labor parties of this city and state have issued an address in which is included a program for the forthcoming constitutional convention in this state. The first proposition provides that where 50,000 electors petition for a change in the state constitution, same shall be placed on the ballot at the next regular election. During the past 20 years the people have been successful only twice in securing constitutional changes.

The address states that "it is a grotesque spectacle presented by a people, governed by a theory, whereas it is bound and whose will is paralyzed by a few." The address declares that any living generation had no hand in making. The dead hand should be lifted. The fact that 20 years have passed and cannot expect to prevent the spread of the dead hand if we are to secure constitutional progress."

The suggested changes include trial by jury in injunction cases, no laws to be invalidated without a unanimous court, home rule for cities, taxation of swollen fortunes, democracy in industry, old age pensions, no home and farm loans and compensation to soldiers.

8 HOURS IN CANNERIES.

San Francisco, July 19.—Cannery employers throughout the country have been compelled to grant the eight-hour establishment of the eight-hour day in this industry on the ground that it is necessary to speed up.

This theory has been rejected by W. B. Wilson, former secretary of labor, administrator, who was appointed by Governor Stephens to set a wage scale for male employes of canneries and dried fruit packing houses.

For the first time in the history of these industries they are not placed on an eight-hour basis and wages for unskilled labor for the 1919 season will be as follows:

First eight hours, 45 cents an hour or $3.60 for an eight-hour day; ninth hour and every hour thereafter, 55 cents an hour. The later hours are 10 cents more than the first three months and not less than $5.50 thereafter. Not less than two-thirds of the women in any establishment shall be paid more than the minimum. Employes under the scale cannot be required to work more than 6 days or after 10 p. m. Sunday work is permitted except where overtime is worked. Piece work overwork. Piece work is forbidden except for the sole purpose of providing some other rest day.

STREET CAR MEN GAIN.

Cincinnati, July 19.—The Street Car Men's union has secured a new agreement from the Cincinnati Traction company which includes a wage increase for motormen and conductors. Beginning next year, 45 cents per hour for the first three months, $12 for the second three months and not less than $15.50 thereafter. Not more than two-thirds of the women in any establishment shall be paid more than the minimum. Employes under the scale cannot be required to work more than 6 days or after 10 p. m. Sunday work is permitted except where overtime is worked. Piece work is forbidden except for the sole purpose of providing some other rest day.

WOMEN'S MINIMUM SET.

San Francisco, July 19.—A minimum wage of $15.60 a week for experienced women and minors employed in laundries and dry cleaning establishments has been established by the state industrial commission. Approximately 10,000 persons will be affected by the order. Not less than two-thirds of the women in any establishment shall be paid more than the minimum. Employes under the scale cannot be required to work more than 6 days or after 10 p. m. Sunday work is permitted except where overtime is worked. Piece work is forbidden except for the sole purpose of providing some other rest day.

WIRE CONTROL TO END.

Washington, July 19.—Government control of telegraph and telephone lines will end on July 31, when these properties will be returned to their owners, according to a statement from the president. Present rates will be maintained for a period of three more months after they regain control, unless changes are made by state commissions affected by the order.

ELECTRICIANS GROW.

Springfield, Ill., July 19.—Officers of the Illinois Federation of Electrical Workers say that this organization is now the fourth in numerical size affiliated with the A. F. of L. Five years ago it was nineteenth in size.

TEXTILE WORKERS UNITE.

Washington, July 19.—Cooperation between the United Textile Workers of America and the Amalgamated Textile Workers of America was effected at a meeting held here this week, it was announced by Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers of America.

"BIG FIVE" PACKERS WILL DOMINATE FOOD

Washington, July 19.—In a report the commission gives warning that the "big five" packers are headed toward the complete domination of the nation's food supply, and of the whole packing industry, linked closely with the "big five"—are Swift, Armour, Wilson, Morris and Cudahy.

An aggressive packers' combination of all important foods in this country and an international control of meat products with foreign ownership seems a certainty unless prompt action is taken to prevent it," says the report, which declares that the history of the packers' growth is interwoven with illegal combination, rebates and the disclosed control of corporations the packers control jointly or separately fifty commodities, which produce or deal in some 775 commodities. These commodities not only include food products, but range from the leather industry to bands, strings, curled hair, fertilizer, soap and glue.

A vast and intricate system of distribution includes control of private refrigerator cars and cold storage houses that permits of the handling on a large scale of poultry, eggs, cheese, butter, fruits, breakfast foods, canned vegetables, soda fountain supplies and other lines. In some instances the packers are interested in companies contracting for the disposal of their waste in cities.

It is shown that the packers have control of or interest in public utility corporations in Chicago, Kansas City, South St. Paul, Chicago, North, Portland, Oreg.; Hill City, Minn.; Fort Worth, Texas, and South San Francisco.

Control of cold storage and elevator companies, tea-importing companies, fruit companies, cattle loan companies and stock yard companies are other interests that attract these packers.

The report offers no hope to those who would boycott the packers by buying meat substitutes, as it is shown that the packers are now invading that field. Swift is the largest single butter distributor in the country and that corporation owns creameries in 17 states. The "big five" jointly handle half of the country's poultry, eggs and cheese, and are entering the fish canning field. Finance is declared to be "the greatest rice merchant in the world."

STREET CAR MEN WIN.

Newark, N. J., July 19.—Declaring that he was tired of the constant bickering between the city employes, President McCarter of the Public Service Railway company has signed a two-years' agreement with the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America. All employes, with the exception of this latter union. The 'nine-hour day, with 10 hours' pay is secured, and wages are increased from 30 to 35 cents per hour. Overtime will be paid for at the rate of 50 per cent. Of the runs will be straight runs.

This agreement marks the end of a bitter struggle between the company, which is one of the most powerful in the state, and its employes, practically all of the street railway systems in this state.

A study of a year ago was the first united action of these employes. The company then organized a "citizens' committee" and began a discriminating policy against the unionists. Several disputes arose, but the union labor board were unsatisfactory to the men and at the last conference President McCarter told the employes that while he had opposed the union in the past he had formed a different opinion lately" and agreed to recognition.

This indorsement of the theory that power is respected checks a tendency that has held the men back from joining the union in a body. He is charged by organized labor with having responsible for the shrink in building industry in this city.

The charge is made in public advertisements and has struck a severe effect on the trade unionist as water on the proverbial duck's back. He says if the labor leaders fix conditions, the employers, to be consistent, should fix profit for their building boom of two years ago.

The trouble started over a members' strike for more pay. Public attention to the fact that the money the employes were getting was not for advertising and other overhead expenses but was being turned back to work for a week. The strikers show that their wages are lower than in other southern Wisconsin cities.

DEATHS IN INDUSTRY.

Lansford, Pa., July 19.—A gas explosion killed two men and seriously injured four others in the mines of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company here.

Washington, July 19.—Reports received by the United States bureau of mines from state mine inspectors show that in Kentucky, Kentucky show that 176 men were killed during April, 1919, in and about the mines of that state, an increase, as compared with 108 states, being reported in March, 1918, and in March, 1917. The 1919 figures show a decrease of 32 fatalities from the record of the preceding year.

WINSTON-SALEM ACTIVE.

Winston-Salem, N. C., July 19.—Trade unionists of this city, together with workers and electrical workers have been organized, and three other locals, are now in the making.

Organized tobacco workers have secured an increase with a shrinkage known tobacco company, which heretofore refused to treat with trade unions will end on July 31. The increase discussed, but as yet no decision has been reached.

FORM STORE UNION.

Paris, France, July 19.—Employes of one of the big department stores in this city have organized a section of the Retail Clerks' union. The section will be known as the "Section de l'union de "store sections," or locals is a new departure for this city and rests upon to impart a greater interest in trade unionism.

COOKS AND WAITERS UNITE.

Wheeling, W. Va., July 19.—Cooks, waiters and waitresses have organized a local union and have affiliated with the International Union of Hotel and Restaurant Employes. Other locals will be formed in the near future.

DEFEAT DAYLIGHT REPEAL.

Washington, July 19.—The president's veto of the agriculture bill, because it included a repeal of the daylight saving law has been upheld by the house. It was proposed to have the law repealed October 26.

GET $19 DAY WAGE.

Paris, France, July 19.—The new agreement between the Paris Omnibus company and its employes has been signed, which provides for a wage of 19 francs a day for a 9-hour day.

GERMAN TRADE UNIONS GET JOINT AGREEMENT

Berlin, Germany, July 18.—German employers have capitulated before trade unionism, says the Bulletin, official magazine of the International Union of Wood Workers. It is declared that the unions took advantage of the revolution to secure gains that would not have been possible a few weeks before. The Bulletin says:

"The agreement of November 15, 1918, is signed by the representatives of the various trade unions and all the leading employers' organizations. It is, therefore, valid for the whole German industry. The agreement acknowledges the trade unions as the legal representatives of the workers and establishes the so-called 'relief unions.' The men discharged from the army are entitled to claim back their former places and the labor exchange (employment bureau) is regulated by a joint board.

"Working conditions are fixed by collective agreements and conciliation boards are provided to settle disputes. The material interest is the following clause:

"The maximum of the regular working hours for all shops is fixed at eight hours. A reduction of wages must not take place on account of this reduction of hours.

"This agreement received very soon an important extension through the establishment of the Joint Labor Board between the trade employers and employes of Germany, whose rules were fixed on December 4, 1918. The object of this board is to jointly solve all questions which would be connected with Germany's industry and trade, as well as all legislative measures affecting labor or touching the same. It is a co-operation of all employers' and workers' organizations and the joint associations of both branches form the basis. They are represented in the craft groups and extend over the entire country. The executive committee of employers and employes at the head.

"The board is built into control by a central executive of representatives of the various craft groups and is looked upon as the German industrial parliament of the future. These arrangements have had tremendous success for trade unionism. The employers, for instance, have many thousands of workers and who had a very great influence in old Germany, have capitulated before the trade unions."

R. R. ENGINEERS ARE ALERT.

Cleveland, July 19.—Locomotive engineers are in a decisive mood, and railwaymen's welfare league, recently organized in the far west.

"There is no question of such a movement, which, of the face of it, threatens to be a serious blow against the present labor organizations," says the Locomotive Engineers' Journal. It pretends how much it be reliable; it promises too much to ever make good, if that were possible. Railroading is a segway, why should we speculate on the possibilities of a new body to supplant the other fellow's game, whether it is a shell game or the launching of a new labor organization.

"It is our duty, and one most profitable to ourselves, to go steadily along the paths where our trusted leaders, have blazed the way and strive to learn to play the game in their game, keeping clear of the railway men's welfare league, the one big good government league, the one big union plan, and others of their kind, which experience has shown to be many pitfalls for organized as well as for unorganized labor."

PORTO RICO STRIKE ENDS.

San Juan, Porto Rico, July 19.—The big cigar makers' strike, involving several thousand employes of the Porto Rico American Tobacco company, has been compromised. The strike lasted six months. The cigar makers were paid benefits by the C. G. A. R. Cigar Makers' International Union of America, with headquarters in Washington. Hay and the strippers and other workers were given financial aid by the American Federation of Labor. The strike was marked with much suffering and in many instances the strikers were clubbed by police and arrested when they attempted to hold meetings. The action of the government over $1,500,000 through a loss of revenue. A committee representing the Porto Rico legislature assisted in securing a satisfactory compromise, which includes wage increases.

GRAND JURY IN "PUERILE."

Cleveland, July 19.—"Puerile and inefficient" is the verdict by a special committee appointed by the local federation of labor to report on a recent trade the grand jury in this city.

The committee says that the report is a tissue of inconsistencies and contradictions and declares the inability to make constructive recommendations it attacked the trade union movement. The personnel of the grand jury is also referred to, and the workers' cause is said to be "condemned or what they term 'preferred citizens.'"

"Democracy is a grand and glorious thing when it comes to purifying the world's ills," continues the report, "but it will be a sad day in our own municipal ills we find autocracy in the saddle."

TIMBER WORKERS GAIN.

Seattle, July 19.—The International Union of Timber Workers is enforcing the new eight-hour day in logging camps and $4.36 in saw mills, although meeting with opposition, because of a wage scale adopted by the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen. This company "union" was formed during the war and its membership includes employers' representatives. It has also a wage rate that is 30 cents a day lower than the bona fide unionists.

This situation has led to a conference agreement to show why the loyal legion is favored by the bosses.

DEFEAT DAYLIGHT REPEAL.

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Should Trade Unionists Support the Labor Press?

Philadelphia, July 19.—"Should trade unionists support the labor press?" is unwittingly answered by the North American in an editorial discussion of the A. F. of L. convention at Atlantic City:

"Newspaper discussion of labor problems and controversies, if not actually taboo, is usually undertaken with timorous caution.

"Because of the antagonism that still exists between capital and labor, most publishers consider candid discussion of matters dangerous, as likely to have unpleasant effect upon circulation and advertising revenue.

"It is, in our judgment, unfortunate for labor, for capital, and especially for the public, that the proceedings of such gatherings as that at Atlantic City are not adequately reported and fully discussed by the newspapers representing every shade of opinion.

"During the last two years of organized labor has been the chief factor in the overthrow of mighty empires."

"One Big Union" Constitution Is Based On Kaiser Bill's Ideal

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, July 18.—The Edmonton Free Press asks one big union advocates if they believe their constitution will be evolved by so-called "pure and simple" trade unionists.

The Free Press is the official newspaper of the Edmonton trades and labor council. It shows that the o. b. u. favor the building of a machine unequalled by the tightest trade union machine ever evolved from the wildest fancy of o. b. u. orators.

The o. b. u. constitution conventions will be held every sixth month despite the criticism that trade unionists hold too many conventions.

"Think of delegates," says the Free Press, "attending conventions every six months for the purpose of electing officers. It is a joke. Such intelligence is offered 'pure and simple minded' trade unionists."

The constitution provides that the general executive board shall fill vacancies occurring on said board by choosing representatives from the same industrial division.

"This," says the Free Press, "is a beauty. It is complete autocracy. It would shock Bismarck. Labor is not prepared to turn loose all he holds and ignore the dictates of his fellow workers. It is remembered the machine in the district or central bodies. The executive board appoints their friend Jones.

"It is claimed that there is a complete dual system. The local unit may withdraw credentials of any official elected by the local unit, but the general executive board will be revoked and the credentials shall be revoked and the credentials shall be revoked by the executive board immediately fill the vacancy.

The placing and keeping of this power in the hands of the select five is made complete.

The constitution further provides that if a union fails to secure the election of the general executive board and orders a strike, it does so on its own responsibility. The Free Press says:

"Well, seeing there are no strike funds provided for such emergencies, whose responsibility could it be?"

The paper asks for more information about "democracy," the o. b. u. constitution gives and educates itself that no trade unionist would dare associate. This is shown in strikes where the central labor council or district board may refer same to the general executive board if it is considered of sufficient importance by the workers." If the strikers' plea for aid is denied they can ask the general executive board to act, and then, if this board considers the matter of "sufficient importance" it shall refer it to subordinate boards to again consider the matter, and if said boards then favor a strike "the general executive board shall be empowered to call a strike of all affiliated bodies."

No where in the constitution is it provided that the rank and file shall have any control over the calling of strikes—they must listen to the "experts" who pull the strings while their officials decide whether wage and other movements of these workers are favorable or not for to attract their attention.

The constitution is a perfect illustration of rulership from the top down, and is an attempt at autocracy camouflaged by slacks on its bona fide trade union manner.

OPPOSE BIG FRENCH STRIKE.

Paris, France, July 19.—The refusal of the interfederal alliance to sanction the general strike demanded by the National Federation of Metal Workers has aroused antagonism among militant elements of the workers, but is regarded as wise by many trade unionists. The alliance is composed of the strongest labor organizations in France—metal workers, dock workers, railroad workers, etc. The National Federation of Metal Workers asked the alliance to call a general strike to enforce the "social demands" of the French confederation of Labor, which represents the French trade unionists, and also to enforce the immediate demobilization and the complete application of the eight-hour law passed by the French parliament.

In refusing to sanction the proposed strike, the alliance declared that it cannot undertake the responsibility of trying to overthrow the government in Paris or in the provinces, believe that victory for the trade unionists depends upon a general conference of the labor parties. The alliance will take such a strike effective and insists that a solidarity among the workers already involved will ultimately win.

EMIGRATE FROM ENGLAND.

London, England, July 19.—A department for persons from England for demobilization and assistance rendered by the government are possibilities, is the result of a special labor committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions, which is affiliated with the British colonial office on this question.

It was intimated to the trade unionists that emigration to British colonies would not be encouraged by the government "can be under no obligation whatever to assist the British to be settled. Inclusion of any kind to countries outside the empire.

Persons employed in labor possesses potentialities and to assist its transference to alien countries would be unwise."

In answer to the claim that soldiers would return to labor life, the trade union committee says:

"That the assumption might have been realized. Four and one-half years' direct association with the mud and suffering of Flanders has modified original conceptions of the desirability of outdoor life. All the surviving clerks who left the General Post Office to join the colors, who lived with the army are anxious to return. Others who have never manifest great anxiety to settle down at home.

FINALLY GETS VACATION.

Portsmouth, N. H., July 15.—Editor Walter Wilson of the Herald, who has been elected delegate to the state labor federation convention and the paper has suspended publication for one week, because, says ye editor, "it is a fact that he is entitled to a vacation this gentleman of elegant leisure has been able to secure for a week."

He therefore gives notice that "the Herald force" association with the mud and suffering of Flanders has modified original conceptions of the desirability of outdoor life. All the surviving clerks who left the General Post Office to join the colors, who lived with the army are anxious to return. Others who have never manifest great anxiety to settle down at home.

FAVOR SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Atlantic City, N. J., July 15.—Sickness insurance and accident insurance for those engaged in the pottery industry was favored by the convention of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters.

The plan has not provide that legislatures be petitioned, but the local associations, together with the employers, will work out details, with each side bearing one-half of the expenses.

The proposal will be submitted to the referendum vote of the local manufacturers. The plan includes every person engaged in the industry with the brotherhood and employers maintaining supervision over the plan.

SECURES BIG VERDICT.

Cumberland, Md., July 15.—J. Walter Wiseman, a Western Maryland railroad conductor, who sued the United States railroad administration for $75,000 damages for a broken neck, has been awarded $65,000 in the federal court. The man suffered the injury while he was making up a train.

WON'T PAY FOR STRIKING.

Copenhagen, Denmark, July 15.—

URGE STRIKE MURDER PROBE.

Washington, July 19.—In a message to Speaker Gillett of the house of representatives John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago federation of labor, urged a congressional investigation of the killing of two persons and injury of several others by gunmen employed by the Corn Products Refining company, at Argo, near Chicago.

Chicago, July 12.—Two workers were killed and over a dozen more or less seriously wounded at Argo, near here, as the result of shots fired by guards employed by the Corn Products Refining company. Nearly 3,000 strikers are out in this district, which maintains a private police force, committed from the thug element in the city.

The strike started when the company posted notices declaring that after a promise was made that the strikers, either the men or the employes favored the union. There are over 30 nationalities represented in the plant. The company has been induced to come to Argo by the promise that it will not molest them the right to organize.

Among the strikers who was killed served in France for nine months as a member of the 345th infantry. At a meeting of the union a member of the guard who fired one of the fatal shots was present. The latter persons, in his plea that the strikers abstain from violence, the secretary of the union declared:

"Every time you get a club, they get 100 rifles."

20,000 WORKERS INJURED.

Charleston, W. Va., July 19.—The records of the state workmen's compensation commission for the fiscal year show that 20,566 injuries and 1,541 deaths resulted from accident. Included in this number are 3,345 fatalities.

Claims for compensation or medical expenses were made in 13,574 cases. Of the 3,345 fatalities, 7,196 occurred in the coal mining industry, 1,177 in metal mines and plants; 1,177 in lumber camps and 1,177 in saw mills. Only products 12 months. Of the 528 fatalities, 424 occurred in the coal mining industry.

With approximately 190,000 employes protected by the operation of the workmen's compensation fund, the ratio of casualties for the year was 1 to 9.23, while the ratio of fatalities was 1 to 256.

FOOD COSTS GOING UP.

Washington, July 19.—Food costs continue upward reports the United States labor bureau for statistics. April, 1913, figures were 4 per cent higher than March, 1919. Cabbage increased 5.61 per cent; potatoes 4.61 per cent; pork chops, potatoes and butter 3 per cent; lard 2.5 per cent; 1 per cent to 5 per cent.

Fuel and light rose 1.2 per cent. Clothing 1.1 per cent. Sugar declined 2.5 per cent.

Prices during April at last year. Onions increased 108 per cent during the year; butter and potatoes, 61 per cent; cheese, 33 per cent, and eggs, 32 per cent. Prices in the Navy bean decreased 52 per cent and corn meal 16 per cent.

FREE LIFE INSURANCE.

New Brunswick, N. J., July 18.—A local auto tire company will give free life insurance to every man in the employ as a recognition. It is stated, of the employes' loyalty in the big strike of 1,500 men. The terms of this "generous" gift the Independent says, is decided that it will rebate $1,250—if the said employe is not "uninterruptedly" for 10 years or over.

Unionists suggest that the best recognition of the employes' loyalty is increased that would permit them to purchase stock at cost instead of waiting till they die.

"HAPPY FAMILY" STRIKE.

Chicago, July 18.—While Wilson & Co. are trying to convince the public, through advertisements, that the packing house employes are in "big happy family," 4,000 of these employes suspended work because of differences with the company officials will take the matter up with the federal board of conciliation, arbitrator in the packing industry.

NEW SECRETARY.

Pittsburg, Pa., July 19.—By a referendum vote Fred Keighly has been elected secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. He succeeds M. F. Tighe, who died.

WANT PAY FOR STRIKING.

Cleveland, July 18.—Members of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America, local 268, have voted to strike unless the company grants them pay for the time they were on strike.